

1935

1935

38086/1

KENYA
CO533/458

38086/1

Petition of a Bombardier Gasson.

regarding his desire to purchase a boot farm.

Previous see 23129/34.	297 R. 309 Mr Freeston Mr Hand	15/10 16/11 16 17	
Subsequent	S. C. Bottomley R. 297 Mr Freeston 297	27/10 14/11 14	
Ry 297 Room 309 Mr Freeston Mr Hand	3/4 6/10 6 29		
297 Room 301	4/5		
R. 299	4/5		
297	3/6		
Room 309	3.		
S. C. Bottomley	7/6		
Ry 297	15/6		
S. C. Bottomley	19/6		
Mr Pymont	24/6		
309			

FILE A.

6/1
Nominal
Petitions.

1. Col. B.N. Abbey (s.o) _____ 12th Feb. 35

States that he has been asked to forward the petition of ex-Bombardier Gasson who has been waiting ^{16 years} for a Govt. farm. Complains of the policy of the Land Dept. & requests ex-Bombardier Gasson may be allowed to buy land by tender.

I think Col. Abbey knows very well that he should have transmitted the petition to the Governor for communication to the Dept. His allegations against the Land Board are serious, but we know from previous cases (23/29/34 and previous p/p) that he is prone to exaggeration.

? Refer the petition to the Governor for a report.

C. A. F. with
6/4/35:

B. B. [Signature]
6

Colonel Abbey is an irresponsible person who is generally recognised as slightly mad. We have always been told that in Kenya it is very necessary to have a sufficient amount of capital before one thinks of taking up a farm. Colonel Abbey says that Mr. Gasson has sufficient means to farm. (He is an unusual ex-Bombardier if he has.) I note that his possessions appear to be 60 head of cattle. Colonel Abbey has tried this game before of saying that the rich get land and the poor

68
Nominal
Petitions.

1. Col. B.N. Abbey (s.o.)

12th Feb. 35

States that he has been asked to forward the petition of
ex-Bombardier Gasson who has been waiting ^{12 years} for a Govt. farm.
Complain of the policy of the Land Dept's requests in Bombardier
Gasson may be allowed to buy land by tender.

I think Col. Abbey knows very
well that he should have
transmitted the petition to the
Governor for communication to
the S.G. His allegations
against the Land Board are
serious, but we know from
previous cases (23/29/34 and
previous p/f.) that he is
prone to exaggeration.

? Refer the petition to
the Governor for a report.

C.A. from with
6/4/35:

B. D. ...
6

Colonel Abbey is an irresponsible person
who is generally recognised as slightly mad. We
have always been told that in Kenya it is very
necessary to have a sufficient amount of capital
before one thinks of taking up a farm. Colonel
Abbey says that Mr. Gasson has sufficient means
to farm. (He is an unusual ex-Bombardier if he has.)
I note that his possessions appear to be 60 head
of cattle. Colonel Abbey has tried this game
before of saying that the rich get land and the
poor

poor don't. See, for instance, his remarks about a 'pleasure farm' in his correspondence with the late Bishop of Ripon. He ought to know well enough that he should address his remarks to the Governor, but he will probably reply that he is far too pure souled and high minded to condescend to communication with the corrupt oligarchy which misrules Kenya. All the same, draft herewith.

J.S.O. 729
9.4.

To Kenya, 256 (w/c1) ions 10/9
10 APR 1935

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

3. Col. B.N. Abbay.....6th April, 35.

Encls. copy of Resolutions passed at Genl. Meeting of the Nanyuki Farmers' Asscn. on 30th March, 1935. Complains of the composition of the Land Advisory Board and requests and early settlement of ex-Bombardier Gasson's case.

Send to O.A.G. in orig. ref. G N° 2 L.F.

J.S.O. 729
29.4. 1935

To Kenya, 322 (w/3 in orig) A/1 4 MAY 1935

DM

5. A/Governor Wade 225 11 May '35.

Whenever stones on Lt. Abbay's petition suggest when he next disregards the usual procedure he should be informed that no action will be taken on his representations unless they are made through the Governor.

The offers received for the farm at Nanyuki (735 acres) were:-

Mr C.H. Randall — 20/- an acre
Mr Davies Evans — 15/-
Mr R.V. Gasson — 20/-

The financial resources of the last named are limited to £20 a month in respect of his employment as Salesman in a local store.

This I think disproves Col. Abbay's statement that Mr Gasson has sufficient means to farm.

We are not in a position to comment on the Land Board's suggestion that Mr Davies Evans' offer should be accepted, and in any case it was not accepted because the Executive Council advised acceptance of Mr Randall's offer.

Colonel Abbay's statement as regards the composition of the Land Board is proved incorrect.

The petition in No 1 requests that Mr Gasson may be allowed to buy land by tender and that the Land Advisory Board be re-organised on democratic lines.

The complaints against the Board

shall

which have been referred to the
Sgt. are limited to those from
Col. Abbey & W. F. Mason.

In the circumstances, it does not
seem necessary for the Sgt.
to intervene.

Request the A.P. to cause
Col. Abbey to be informed that
the Sgt. has considered
W. F. Mason's petition and is
not prepared to intervene.

A.P. from with
2/6/35.

and accept the suggestion in para. 7.

[Signature]

3/6.

J.L.O. Hand

36

I entirely agree, but there is
no urgency, as notes to be sent on
17 June for submission to Lord
Plymouth.

W.F.M.
7.6.35.

Revised note minute above.

[Signature]
18.6.35
Ry 211.

Lord Plymouth.

You will see that, having
seen on side Col. Abbey's
prejudice against the Land
Office, the Land Act 1934

highest bidder and that his
nominate is definitely considered
not to have the resources necessary
for making use of the land.

? action is proposed by the
Committee with the Director's addition.

W.F.M.

19.6.35

I agree

[Signature]

24.6.35

To Kemp 493 (5 answered) 4 JUL 1935

[Signature]

7. Col. D.N. Abbey — 28.9.35

(Encloses petition on behalf of ex-Bombardier
Basson states that a copy has been put
to the Govt.)

Col. Abbey becomes more and more
excited (and his statements
wilder.

? Publicly

(I think he was a
representative at
the recent Convention
of Associations.)

A.P. from with
10/11/35

[Signature]
16

You may like to see...

J.L.O. Hand

17.10

The

Yes!

This checked on
5/7/35.
W.F.M. Noted

[Signature]

The petition contains no prayer,
unless it be one of malediction,
but I suppose the Gov. will
forward the original with his
comments.

On the point of issue, 1. 1. 36
has become a hot issue recently
late date 20

putty

Wes.

21.10.35

Miss Atkey called and said that
she wished to buy a farm in
Kenya - one which her father
had unsuccessfully applied for.
I told her of course that she
should apply to the Kenya
Govt. She seems to share
her father's distrust of the
Kenya Govt - and with no
doubt write to the Co. asking
that her request may be
forwarded.

Putty

C. J. F. Smith

14. 11. 35

Admission
in etc

Nairobi
Kenya
28/9/35

Sir

I have the honour to inform you that a copy of the enclosed petition has been forwarded to the Governor so as to comply with instructions re the forwarding of petitions. The Attorney-General having declared in Legislative Council that paying by an official is really a bribe, you will understand that it is not possible to rely on the Government of Kenya to forward a petition.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. N. Abbey Colonel
(retired)

Nano horo ^b
28/9/35

Sir

With ref to my petition re a Bombardier
Garrison and the farm requested by him is
returned because it was not forwarded
through the proper channels, I have the
honour to inform you that His Excellency
the Acting Governor has been fit to do what
the Governor refused to do, i. e placed the
valuation of land in the hands of independent
valuers, so that my petition is now answered
in the affirmative.

However, deliberate obstruction by the
Government towards Settlement Hill
petitions.

In April 1935 I applied for a farm, the
sale of which had already been approved
by the District Committee, Nyeri; but merely
for the purpose of obstruction, the case has
again been submitted to the District
Committee. It is now impossible that this
farm can be sold before 1st Jan 1936, a
delay of 9 months and this in the face
of the fact that the Director of Lands and

7
and Local Government has been informed that
the rains have still failed at Nanyo Mro.
Three years ago I informed you that loyal
men were being turned into rebels by the
treatment of the Director of Local Govt and
Lands.

This area, until lately the most conservative
in the Colony, is now organised, and ripe
for rebellion, and very determined.

As the above mentioned official went out
against the ex-Army man, so there is only
one ex-Army man, a diplomat, who
has not thrown in his lot against that
hated kind of injustice, the Government of
Kenya.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant.

M. N. Abbey Consul
(Retired)

C. O.

38086/35. KENYA.

29/6
18

Mr. Grossmith

Mr. Campbell 29

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permi. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

R 1-JUL
D H

DOWNING STREET,

~~June, 1935.~~

4 JUL 1935

Sir,

DRAFT.

I have, etc., to acknowledge

the receipt of your despatch No.225

KENYA.

NO. 493

(5)

of the 11th of May in which you

commented on the petition addressed to

O.A.G.

me by Colohel B. N. Abbay, C.B., on the

12th of February on behalf of Ex-

Bombadier Gasson.

2. I shall be obliged if you will

cause Colohel Abbay to be informed that

I have considered the petition and that

I am not prepared to intervene.

3. I concur in the suggestion

in the last paragraph of your despatch.

I am, etc.,

(Sgd.) MALCOLM MacDONALD

FURTHER ACTION.

5

KENYA.

No. 275.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.

RECEIVED
- 3 JUN 1935
C. O. REGY

11th MAY, 1935.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 256 of the 10th of April, 1935, I have the honour to state that I have received from Colonel B.N. Abbay, C.B, a copy of the petition dated the 12th February, 1935, which he has forwarded direct to you on the question of the disposal of a farm at Manyuki, and in which he advances the claims of Ex-Bombadier Gasson.

No 2

(1)

Forward (6)

2. The farm in question comprises 735 acres at Kalalu, near Manyuki, and together with other land totalling 1,962 acres was recently excised from Forest Reserve. An Outspan in this locality was required and at first the whole area was provisionally reserved for this purpose until the outspanning requirements of the District were decided. As a result of investigations it was found possible to release 735 acres for farming purposes.

3. Mrs. Davies Evans, who has a farm adjoining the Kalalu area, in addition to other property in the Colony, had for some years endeavoured to obtain a portion of the Kalalu Area and it was mainly due to her efforts that the whole area was excised from Forest Reserve and the portion of 735 acres was made available for alienation.

4. Tenders for the area were called for in the Official Gazette, replies being received from Mr. C.H. Randall, Mrs. Davies Evans and Mr. R.V. Gasson, who offered thirty, fifteen and twenty shillings per acre respectively.

These

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
MAJOR SIR PHILIP CUNLIFFE-LISTER, P.C., G.B.E., M.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.

These tenders were referred to the Advisory Land Board in December, 1934, who considered that sufficient information in regard to the tenderers and their respective ability to farm and develop the land adequately was not available. A further report was accordingly asked for from the Provincial Commissioner, and the latter was again considered by the Board in January, 1935. The Provincial Commissioner endorsed the view of the District Commissioner that Mr. Randall would make the best use of the land. He reported that Mr. Gasson's financial resources were limited to a salary of £20 per month received by him in respect of his employment as salesman in a local store.

5. It appeared to the board that the payment of installments of stamp duties and rent and the further development of this property would be beyond Mr. Gasson's financial resources. As between the other two tenderers the board considered that Mr. Arthur Gasson's tender should be granted and Mr. Randall's tender should be refused on the premium offered. This view was, however, not supported in substance by the District Commissioner, who's view was in favor of Mr. Randall's tender.

6. The board also considered in 1934 that two late applications for the land were made which were referred to the board for their consideration. The applications were for the land primarily a matter of the board's consideration some months ago and the board was not aware of the details of the board. The official tenderers are Messrs. Gasson (No. 1), and Messrs. Mitchell, and the other offer of Mr. Gasson's who has from time to time been a member of both the Executive Council and Executive Council.

7. Having regard to the provisions of Colonial Regulations

These tenders were referred to the Advisory Land Board in December, 1934, who considered that sufficient information in regard to the tenderers and their respective ability to farm and develop the land adequately was not available. A further report was accordingly asked for from the Provincial Commissioner, and the matter was again considered by the Board in January, 1935. The Provincial Commissioner endorsed the view of the District Commissioner that Mr. Randall would make the best use of the land. He reported that Mr. Gasson's financial resources were limited to a salary of £20 per month received by him in respect of his employment as salesman in a local store.

5. It appeared to the Board that the payment of instalments of stand rental and rent and the proper development of this property would be beyond Mr. Gasson's financial resources. As between the other two tenderers the Board considered that Mr. David Wang, the tenderer of a grant, was in a better position to develop the land. In view of the fact that Mr. Wang's tender was accepted by the Board, it is considered that the Board's decision was correct.

6. It is noted that Mr. Wang is a member of the Board and that he is also a member of the Executive Council. It is also noted that Mr. Wang is a member of the Executive Council and that he is also a member of the Executive Council. It is also noted that Mr. Wang is a member of the Executive Council and that he is also a member of the Executive Council. It is also noted that Mr. Wang is a member of the Executive Council and that he is also a member of the Executive Council.

7. Having regard to the provisions of colonial

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

CONTINUED ON NEXT FILM

TOTAL EXPOSURES →

ne
narc
enc
Zap.
90:
Fore
Basi
res
is:
eas
ep
ran
e
he
Brit
use:
ossi
"

*My being finger good Lake
the sign of 'L' is go. Look
in shop of Confectionery in
to manifest health to the Dean
after that time manifest
force of, and called ma...*

p nos aut h[ilum] p[ro] con[tra] h[ilum]

this direction would
tions and with the

gypt, the question
nuously. His re
me, he forwarded
Rough Notes to
System of L
e rough not

modo implicitent at poyent al p[ro]ntal

granot al or malofet al p[ro]ntal sol g[ra]m

PUBLIC

RECORD

OFFICE

*And according to...
...December 17...
...the direction of...
...was statu...
...the direction of...*

explain to you in my last...

returned to you in...

...the direction of...

was statu...

*...him at n...
...at n...
...the direction of...*

...the direction of...

...was statu...

*...at 1900, but abc...
...ulation which finis*